for Weisberg

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Returning to Canada tonight

Ex-area man, 26 on desperate raid over Haiti palace

The Canadian crewman aboard a plane that bombed the Haitian president's palace Wednesday with barrels of gasoline will fly into Toronto tonight to meet his London parents.

William Dempsey, 26, son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Dempsey of 103 Biscay Rd., has been in the custody of police in Freeport, Bahamas, since a converted Lockheed Constellation landed there after the raid, riddled with bullet holes.

He was to be turned over to Canadian authorities today to be flown back to Canada. Seven Americans and two Haitians were also reported aboard the plane when it landed.

William Dempsey, who grew up in Stratford, was arrested seven years ago in Key West, Fla., and charged with conspiring to invade Cuba. His parents moved to London a couple of years ago.

Officials at Freeport said the aircraft was heavily scarred by rifle and anti-aircraft fire after the raid.

"If I had been the pilot, I would have been very frightened," said a spokesman at the U.S. missile tracking base on Grand Bahama Island where the plane landed after the raid.

"There were two bullet holes very near his seat," the spokesman said. "They could have missed him only by inches."

The plane arrived at Freeport almost out of fuel after six gasoline drums with burning fuses were dropped in the area of Haitian President Francois Duvalier's palace in Port au Prince. The Haitian government said only one exploded.

Ten men, in flying suits, left the plane immediately after landing and took taxis to Freeport. When the condition of the aircraft was noted, police were notified and all were arrested by Bahamian police.

Seven Americans, the Canadian and two Haitians were reported in the group. Three were flown to Miami Friday night and jailed. Six others were turned over to U.S. authorities in Miami on Saturday.

WILLIAM DEMPSEY
with tropical "pet"

It was reported Dempsey spent 11 days in a Miami jail earlier this year for guerrilla activities.

The Hamilton Spectator says he was first arrested in Florida in March after a fatal shooting of Haitian exile Gerard D. Baker while on guerrilla training manoeuvres 50 miles into the Everglades swamp.

Found in the plane's cargo compartment were eight rifles, two sub-machine-guns, automatic revolvers and hand grenades.

The superstructure of the plane was riddled with holes and there were flak holes in the undercarriage. It was described as a "very, very old" Lockheed Constellation, stripped down and with all seats removed.

Held in Miami were Rene J. Leon, former Haitian army colonel; Charles Smith, 29, and Howard Kenneth Davis, 38. They were jailed on orders from customs and immigration officials.

Officials said two of the six brought to Miami Saturday were James Carlin and Martin Casey. They provided only last names on the other four: Dunbach, Simpson, Edsens and Kolby.

Leon, 45, is under appeal bond from his conviction for a 1967 Haiti invasion effort from the Florida Keys.

Leon and Smith were picked up last March at a training camp hidden in the Florida Everglades but were not charged.

A source close to the raiders said the plane left from Miami.